

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for enabling a service in a network environment, comprising:

5 a gateway general packet radio service (GPRS) support node (GGSN) operable to establish a communication link with an end user, wherein the GGSN is operable to use signaling information associated with the communication link to identify a correlation between the end user and a multicast service group associated with
10 the end user, and wherein the correlation may be used to provide one or more multicast services to the end user.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

15 a table included within the GGSN and operable to store the correlation between the end user and the multicast service group associated with the end user.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the signaling information includes an access point name (APN) that may
20 be used to match the end user to the multicast service group.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:
a client services packet gateway (CSPG) coupled to
the GGSN, the CSPG being operable to provide one or more
network services to the end user, the network services
5 being selected from a group of network services
consisting of:

- a) accounting;
- b) firewalling;
- c) filtering;
- 10 d) wireless application protocol transformations;
- e) compression;
- f) optimization;
- g) billing; and
- h) content authorization.

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5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein one or more
of the multicast services is provided in a selected one
of an audio stream format and a video stream format.

20 6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the GGSN is
further operable to perform joining and leaving
operations associated with the end user joining and
leaving one or more multicast service group communication
sessions.

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7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the GGSN is
further operable to forward Internet protocol (IP)
multicast traffic associated with the multicast service
group to the end user.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the GGSN is further operable to replicate one or more packets associated with a selected one of the multicast services
5 and to deliver the packets to one or more communication tunnels associated with one or more end users that belong to the multicast service group.

9. A method for enabling a service in a network environment, comprising:

establishing a communication link with an end user;

5 evaluating signaling information associated with the communication link to identify a correlation between the end user and a multicast service group associated with the end user; and

using the correlation to provide one or more multicast services to the end user.

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10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

storing the correlation between the end user and the multicast service group associated with the end user in a table.

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11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the signaling information includes an access point name (APN) that may be used to match the end user to the multicast service group.

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12. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

performing joining and leaving operations associated with the end user joining and leaving one or more multicast service group communication sessions.

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13. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

forwarding Internet protocol (IP) multicast traffic associated with the multicast service group to the end user.

14. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
replicating one or more packets associated with a
selected one of the multicast services; and
5 delivering the packets to one or more communication
tunnels associated with one or more end users that belong
to the multicast service group.

15. A system for enabling a service in a network environment, comprising:

means for establishing a communication link with an end user;

5 means for evaluating signaling information associated with the communication link to identify a correlation between the end user and a multicast service group associated with the end user; and

means for using the correlation to provide one or
10 more multicast services to the end user.

16. The system of Claim 15, further comprising:

means for storing the correlation between the end user and the multicast service group associated with the
15 end user in a table.

17. The system of Claim 15, wherein the signaling information includes an access point name (APN) that may be used to match the end user to the multicast service
20 group.

18. The system of Claim 15, further comprising:

means for performing joining and leaving operations associated with the end user joining and leaving one or
25 more multicast service group communication sessions.

19. The system of Claim 15, further comprising:

means for forwarding Internet protocol (IP) multicast traffic associated with the multicast service
30 group to the end user.

20. The system of Claim 15, further comprising:
means for replicating one or more packets associated
with a selected one of the multicast services; and
means for delivering the packets to one or more
5 communication tunnels associated with one or more end
users that belong to the multicast service group.

21. Software for enabling a service in a network environment, the software being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer code such that when executed is operable to:

- 5 establish a communication link with an end user;
 evaluate signaling information associated with the communication link to identify a correlation between the end user and a multicast service group associated with the end user; and
10 use the correlation to provide one or more multicast services to the end user.

22. The medium of Claim 21, wherein the code is further operable to:

- 15 store the correlation between the end user and the multicast service group associated with the end user in a table.

23. The medium of Claim 21, wherein the signaling
20 information includes an access point name (APN) that may be used to match the end user to the multicast service group.

24. The medium of Claim 21, wherein the code is
25 further operable to:

- perform joining and leaving operations associated with the end user joining and leaving one or more multicast service group communication sessions.

25. The medium of Claim 21, wherein the code is further operable to:

forward Internet protocol (IP) multicast traffic
5 associated with the multicast service group to the end user.

26. The medium of Claim 21, wherein the code is further operable to:

10 replicate one or more packets associated with a selected one of the multicast services; and

deliver the packets to one or more communication tunnels associated with one or more end users that belong to the multicast service group.